REMARKS

A first Office Action was mailed on October 20, 2004. Claims 1 – 5 are currently pending in the application. Applicant cancels claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amends claims 2 and 3 to include the limitations of canceled claim 1. No new matter is introduced.

OBJECTED CLAIMS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2 - 4 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claim 1, but that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims. Applicant amends claims 2 and 3 to include the limitations of base claim 1, and respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are allowable. As claim 4 depends from allowable claim 3, Applicant further submits that claim 4 is allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2 - 4 be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,912,353 to Kasuya et al. Applicant cancels claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, reserving all right to file a divisional application based on one or more of canceled claims 1 and 5 at a future time.

<u>CONCLUSION</u>

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 2 - 4, consisting of independent claims 2 and 3 and dependent claim 4, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should

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consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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Docket No: 100794-00460 (FUJA 20.524)

TJB:pm